

APPENDIX No. 6.

ANNUAL REPORT OF "A" TROOP, CAVALRY SCHOOL CORPS AND SCHOOL OF CAVALRY.

CITADEL, QUEBEC, 1st December, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my Annual Report for the information of the Major General Commanding.

Owing to the employment of the Corps in the North-West Territories the only certificates granted during the year have been to those Officers, N.-C. O's and men attending the three months' course of instruction, commencing on the 1st January last, which were as follows:—

Rank.	Grade A.		Grade B.		Attendance.	Total.	Remarks.
	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.			
Officers.....	6	1	.....	.....	.....	7	
Sergeants.....	.....	.....	3	3	.....	6	
Corporals.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	3	
Privates.....	.....	.....	2	4	.....	6	
Total.....	6	1	8	7	.....	22	

One Officer who passed a brilliant practical examination and is now an Inspector in the N.-W. Mounted Police, did not obtain his certificate, owing to the sudden departure of the School of Cavalry for the N.-W. T., which prevented his theoretical examination, and one Officer who had previously declined an examination failed to qualify.

Twelve privates also did not obtain certificates except for attendance.

At the present date there are attached for instruction the following:—

Rank.	Corps.	Course.
1 Officer.....	17th Batt., Lévis.....	Long
3 Officers.....	8th N. B. Cavalry.....	Short
3 Sergeants.....	3rd Regt. Cavalry.....	"
4 ".....	4th ".....	"
1 Corporal.....	Q.O.C. Hussars.....	"
1 Trumpeter.....	".....	"
1 ".....	3rd Regt. Cavalry.....	"
9 Privates.....	Q.O.C. Hussars.....	"
4 ".....	3rd Regt. Cavalry.....	"
1 ".....	6th ".....	"

Total, 28, of all ranks.

But in consequence of most of these not joining at the commencement of the course in September their examinations cannot take place before the end of December.

Camps.

The following N.-C Officers were detailed for instructional purposes during the current year :—

Corps.

Regimental Sergt.-Major Baxter.....	Q. O. C. Hussars
Sergt.-Instructor Dingley.....	Winnipeg Cavalry
Sergt.-Instructor Charlewood.....	6th Cavalry, St. John's
Sergt. Widgery	Prescott Cavalry, Brockville
Regimental Sergt.-Major Baxter.....	3rd Regt. Cavalry, Kingston
Sergt.-Instructor Dingley	8th Regt. Cavalry, Rothesay
Regimental S.-Major Baxter.....	Princess Louise D. Guards

Target Practice.

Winchester repeating carbines having been issued to the C. S. C. this year a match was arranged with the Winnipeg Troop of Cavalry for Dominion Day, and an excellent range obtained in the Touchwood Hills, N. W. T., at 200, 400 and 600 yards distance. The contest throughout was a very close one and resulted in favor of the Winnipeg men by two points.

A rather novel feature being the spectators, who were principally Indians and half breeds, remaining silent until the termination of the match, when they eagerly picked up the empty cartridge cases with loud "how's" of satisfaction, and departed much impressed with the excellent shooting made by us at these ranges. I am disappointed, however, with the Winchester rifle as a soldier's weapon; it breaks too easily at the stock with the fall of either horse or man, and the sighting is far from being correct or uniform. The ammunition also is very easily injured in our regulation pouches, and requires a specially made cartridge belt, otherwise, as it happened with us, the jolting causes the bullets to fray at the edges, so that the magazines in the carbines often ceased to work smoothly.

I annex the annual target practice returns, and hope to be allowed in the future an increased number of rounds of practice ammunition, so as to make every man a good marksman, for I am desirous of teaching all our Canadian Cavalry to fight on foot as well as on horseback, believing firmly that Cavalry are more needed now than ever, and that a glorious future awaits this arm of the service.

Horses.

The requisite number of horses to complete the establishment were purchased by me previous to our departure for the North-West, and though the hardships, privations and exposure were severe trials, in addition to the overwork, still I succeeded in bringing back to Quebec all the horses except two, one of which died in Winnipeg and the other was shot. I attribute my success throughout the campaign to having horses sound in wind and limb, and in hard condition.

Recruits.

I am glad to be able to report that the health and conduct of the men has been excellent, the only serious accident during the year was to a recruit, whose leg was broken by a kick from a vicious horse. I desire, however, again to draw attention to the heavy nature of the work performed by the Cavalry School Corps, and that every important part of the duties of a regiment, in common with all other Schools of Military Instruction, has to be carried out, in addition to the care of the horses and saddlery, and to do this I have but 2 Officers and 40 N.-C. Officers and men—the smallness of numbers I endeavor to supplement with increased efficiency—it is absolutely necessary to at least increase the establishment by an additional 20 men, otherwise the health of the men must give way from the overwork.

Inspections.

The only Corps inspected by me this year was the Winnipeg Troop of Cavalry, which was under my command for three months in the North-West Territories. A very full and detailed account was reported at the time of this fine troop, to Headquarters, through the Deputy Adjutant General of the 10th Military District. I earnestly recommend a uniform system of inspection for the Cavalry arm similar somewhat to the Artillery, without which the full benefit of this school cannot reach the force at large.

Saddlery.

The expected saddlery and valises have not yet been received by the Corps, and are much needed, in order that the equipment in use at present may be returned to the legitimate owners.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Queen's Birthday this year was one never to be forgotten. The review of Cavalry at the Hudson Bay Post, Touchwood, bringing together settlers, teamsters, Indians and half-breeds, with their wives and families, as spectators. The afternoon was devoted to Regimental games and horse racing, affording intense pleasure to these people; and a huge bonfire, in the evening, round which hundreds congregated, singing and smoking, until the trumpets sounding "last post" and a grand chorus of "God save the Queen," closed a most enjoyable day.

I desire, in conclusion, particularly to mention and record the valuable assistance I have received from Lieut. and Adjutant Heward, whose untiring zeal and devotedness has contributed much to the continued success of the School. It affords me also pleasure to state that I have been ably assisted by Lieut. Lessard.

I must also call attention to the valuable and able services rendered by Surgeon Colin Sewell, M.D., of "B" Battery, R.C.A., and to the assistance afforded to me by Lieut.-Col. Forrest and Major Lampson, Superintendents of Stores and District Paymasters.

To Regimental Sergt.-Major Baxter and Staff-Sergt. Instructor Dingley I am much indebted. Of these two valuable Non-Commissioned Officers I cannot speak too highly. Their energy, enthusiasm and zeal, coupled with their incessant and unceasing labor in furthering the object for which the School was formed, certainly merit some substantial acknowledgment.

In Sergt. A. Hamel I have a most able and reliable Non-Commissioned Officer and Instructor in both languages. Should there be any increase in the establishment he stands first for promotion.

J. F. TURNBULL, Lieut.-Colonel,

Commandant, School of Cavalry.

To the Adjutant-General of Militia,
Ottawa.

SCHOOL OF CAVALRY.

NAMES of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Active Militia who have obtained Certificates during the Year 1885.

Name and Rank.	Corps.	Date of Certificate.		Grade.	Course.
		First Class.	Second Class.		
Baxter, Corporal E. A.	8th Regiment Cavalry....	Dec. 24...	.....	B	Short.
Bourget, Captain R. G.	17th Battalion	Mar. 12...	.....	A	do
Brown, Sergeant W. W.	3rd Regiment Cavalry ...	do 31...	.....	B	do
Buchan, Bt. Major Lawrence....	School Mounted Infantry	Dec. 31...	.....	A	Special.
Dickie, Sergeant F. W.	King's Troop	Mar. 31...	.....	B	Short.
Disbrowe, Lieutenant William H....	Winnipeg Troop	Mar. 28...	.....	A	do
Dudley, Private W. T.	3rd Regiment Cavalry ...	April 1...	.....	B	do
Duff, Private Alexander	8th do	do 1...	.....	B	do
Fages, Captain Alfred	9th Battalion	Feb. 7...	.....	A	do
Fauteux, Private E. H.	6th Regiment Cavalry....	Dec. 24...	.....	B	do
Fowler, Corporal Robert T.	Winnipeg Troop.....	Mar. 31...	.....	B	do
Jordan, Sergeant Archibald....	King's Troop	do 31...	.....	B	do
LeSueur, Major Richard J.	8th Battalion	do 12...	.....	A	do
Mallory, Sergeant R.	3rd Regiment Cavalry ...	April 1...	.....	B	do
Morency, Private Jean	Cavalry School Corps ...	Mar 31...	.....	B	do
McCallum, Lieutenant John	6th Regiment Cavalry ...	April 2...	.....	A	do
McCarthy, Private E.	8th do	Dec. 24...	.....	B	do
McCollum, Tp. Sergt.-Maj., W. G....	2nd do	do 1...	.....	B	do
McDougall, Private John A.	Cavalry School Corps ...	Mar. 31...	.....	B	do
McKenzie, Private George	3rd Regiment Cavalry ...	April 1...	.....	B	do
McNevin, Private Thomas	8th do	do 1...	.....	B	do
Onslow, Private T. R.	Q. O. C. Hussars.....	Dec. 24...	.....	B	do
Philp, Sergeant E. E.	3rd Regiment Cavalry ...	April 1...	.....	B	do
Rugg, Corporal Amos U.	5th do	Mar. 20...	.....	B	do
Shelton, 2nd Lieutenant Henry T....	Winnipeg Troop	April 2...	.....	A	do
Skinner, Corporal A. R.	do	do 1...	.....	B	do
Snetsinger, Private H.	3rd Regiment Cavalry ...	April 1...	.....	B	do
Tidd, Private Aron.....	8th do	Dec. 24...	.....	B	do
Total .....	.....	16	12	7	21
				21	28